

times on a fresh
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e a crust for nice
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Children's Department.

Hugh's Writing Lesson.

Hugh Fales came hurrying home from school. Peter Fletcher's cane slipped on the wet grass two or three times. Hugh went by as though he didn't notice it or know that he was lame.

Julia Rust was taking home the school books of her sick brother. They made a heavy load for her. Hugh rushed by her without even offering to carry a slate or the big geography.

When little Ted Witherspoon called out, "Please pull me along in my cart, Hughy," all the answer he got was a rough, "Pull yourself, lazy-bones."

But how the snappy boy smiled when he overtook Squire Lee's Tommy! "You spoke your piece splendidly today," he said. "There isn't a boy in school that could do half as well."

"Perhaps not," answered the rich man's boy, as he brushed his fine coat.

"And when I get into college I mean to shoot ahead of all the other fellows; that is if I can always find a piece as good as Spartacus to the Gladiators."

"'Tis fine, Tommy. But it takes you to put the life into it."

Hugh wanted to speak more praise, but he was right at the door of the home; and so he said, "Good-night," kindly, and went into the house.

His mother was quietly sewing by the east window. She didn't seem to see how muddy his shoes were or how hard he slammed the door behind him.

"Where's the paper?" the boy snapped out as he tossed his books on the lounge. "I'm going to write something. Tommy Lee's going off to college. I suppose all the boys here will try and make something. I don't want to stay here in the country always. I know how folks like to read boys' stories. I'm going to write one."

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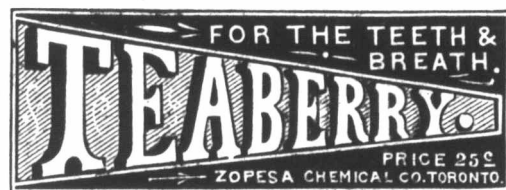
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Hugh's mother opened a box beside her and handed him several sheets of note paper.

"Good stories always help a good deal," she said.

"Of course I shall write good ones," said the boy. His tone was quite pleasant. When he went up into his room, he didn't slam the door after him. "Mother!" he called down stairs in about half an hour, "didn't you use to know the man who wrote 'Spartacus,' and lots of boys' books?"

"Yes, Hugh. Elijah Kellogg came to my father's very often when I was a girl. I have heard him preach a good many times."

"But, mother, do you know how he wrote such books that just make you laugh some and help you always, and that the boys like to read?"

Hugh's tone was rather anxious, so his mother laid down her sewing and went up stairs. She couldn't help smiling to see how the table looked where Hugh had been at work. One sheet of paper was quite well filled up with writing; but the boy had become dissatisfied with it and marked it over with a lead pencil. Two other pages looked as though no story had been completed upon them. They were tossed to the back of the table. There was ink on the cloth and on the boy's face and hands.

But Mrs. Fales took care that Hugh should not see her smiles as she seated herself in a chair near him.

"Yes, my boy," she said, "I know something about how Mr. Kellogg wrote some of his best books. He wrote down many things which he heard at Harpswell, Me., where he preached so many years."

"Oh, I see; he went around and asked a lot of questions."

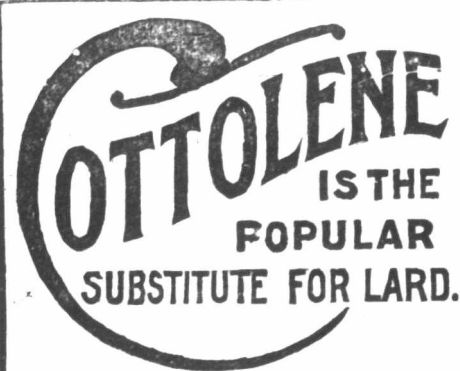
"Sometimes he did. But he was far more likely to see if there was not something he could do to help somebody. And he told my father once that he was never happier than when he was told some way in which he could cheer or encourage a poor boy."

"One night he received a letter from a neighbor's wife, which asked him if he could not come up and talk to one of her sons. He had been sent to school with the other children, but he had not seemed to get on well with his studies. Then he had gone down into his father's ship-yard to work. He watched the men, but he couldn't hew a stick of the plainest timber in a way that satisfied his father or any of the men. It was the same with all the work in the yard."

"His father and mother heard the men laughing about him when they thought that no one was listening. He'd never know enough to make a button to put on a barn door, some of the men declared. Several wondered how he was ever going to get along in the world. The parents knew that one or two of the neighbors had talked in the same way about his failure at school."

"The father did not say much concerning the matter. He lay awake many a night though, thinking the subject over. The mother had always felt sure that her boy would get on well in life. She had a houseful of workmen from the ship-yard to look after, though, and hadn't much time to talk with her Clarence. She knew from his looks now and then that he had overheard remarks about his dullness. She felt sure he was discouraged. She was as certain that Mr. Kellogg could help him, so she sent him the note.

"Mr. Kellogg had some wealthy



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